

Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

WISE COUNTY/TOWN OF BIG STONE GAP WATER SHORTAGE

SITUATION REPORT # 37

1500 Hours December 7, 2005

New Information in Bold Italics

The next Situation Report will be 14 December 2005 at 1400 Hours information should be submitted to the VEOC by 1200 Hours. Next Conference Call is scheduled for 14 December 2005 0930 Hours.

SUMMARY

The town of Big Stone Gap continues to experience water shortages due to drought like conditions. Actions are being coordinated with surrounding communities and the state to alleviate the adverse conditions.

EXECUTIVE ACTION

EOC Activation: The Virginia VEOC is at Increased Readiness condition and augmented with limited staffing.

State of Emergency: On October 7, 2005, Governor Mark R. Warner declared a state of emergency to exist for Wise County and the Town of Big Stone Gap to assist these localities in responding to a critical water shortage. Governor Warner directed appropriate assistance be rendered by agencies of the state government to respond to needs in Wise County and the Town of Big Stone Gap to alleviate adverse conditions created by the water shortage. Executive Order 99 (2005) was amended to include an Open Burning Ban on Wise County and the Town of Big Stone Gap.

Protective Actions: Local Emergency Declared: Wise County declared a local emergency on September 26, 2005.

WEATHER

Forecast: ***Wednesday 7 December*** – Sunny, high temperatures mid to upper 30s, light winds. Wednesday night – Partly cloudy, low temperatures upper teens to low 20s, light winds. ***Thursday 8 December*** – Partly to mostly cloudy, high temperatures upper 30s to low 40s, southeast winds 5 to 10 MPH, chance of precipitation 70% - slight chance of snow in morning with rain likely in the afternoon. Thursday night – Snow likely, accumulations up to 2 inches, low temperatures mid to upper 20s, southwest winds 5 to 15 MPH, chance of precipitation 90%. ***Friday 9 December*** – Partly cloudy, high temperatures low to mid 30s, northwest winds 5 to 15 MPH, chance of snow 30%. Friday night – Mostly clear, low temperatures upper teens to low 20s.

Hazardous Weather Outlook, National Weather Service Morristown TN, 7 December: Thursday through Tuesday – Cold upper low moving east into Ohio Valley Thursday will bring precipitation in the form of snow initially Thursday morning, changing to a mixture of snow, freezing rain and sleet during the day on Thursday. Snowfall accumulations of up to 2 inches are possible.

OPERATIONS SECTION

Local Liaison: VDEM Local Support Services Division Region Four Coordinator is available as needed ***and is scheduled to visit Wise County and Big Stone Gap on Friday 9 December.***

EMERGENCY SERVICES BRANCH

ESF 4 – Firefighting:

Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF)

The VDOF has signs in place notifying residents of the burn ban.

ESF 8 – Health & Medical:

Virginia Department of Health (VDH)

VDH continues monitoring absenteeism in Big Stone Gap schools. **No new cases of chickenpox reported and VDH has ended surveillance. Shelter supplies have been removed from the shelter which was located at East Stone Baptist Church.**

ESF 13 - Public Safety & Security:

Virginia Department of Military Affairs/National Guard (VDMA/VNG)

The VNG continues the blivet support mission. **VNG has not pumped water from Powell River Cave #1 since 5 December.** Eleven blivets are in place. Ten soldiers remain on mission. Coordinated blivet removal schedule is as follows:

Bullitt Park (2)	January 15, 2006
Shelter-East Stone Gap (1)	Blivets can be removed at any time
Powell Valley Schools (3)	December 9, 2005
DMME and MECC (1)	December 13, 2005
Nursing Home (1)	December 14, 2005
Hospital (1)	December 15, 2005
Powell Cave Number 1 (2)	December 15, 2005

HUMAN SERVICES BRANCH

ESF 11 – Agriculture & Natural Resources:

Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

DEQ continues to monitor the town of Big Stone Gap water production, water sales and calculate the amount of water losses on a monthly basis.

INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT BRANCH

ESF 1 – Transportation:

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

The VDOT has four message boards in the Big Stone Gap area with plans to change the messages on the boards every three days so that members of the community do not become complacent. A VDOT tractor is being used to pull stainless steel tankers of water.

LOGISTICS SECTION

ESF 7 – Resource Support:

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

The VEOC is coordinating requests for assistance from the locality and state agencies, and is facilitating conference calls with the locality and state agencies.

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Current Powell River stream flow is **36 cubic feet per second. The water treatment plant produced 853,000 gallons of water on 6 December. Total water production from all sources was 1.72 million gallons during the 24-hour period ending 6 December. All water storage tanks are full. Water level at the Big Cherry Reservoir old dam was 5.2 feet on 8 October 2005 and measured 26 feet and 11 ¼ inches on 7 December 2005. Memo sent to Wise County Sheriff and Town of Big Stone Gap Police Chief outlining blivet removal schedule and reducing patrols. The water received from Appalachia has been reduced 50% to 50,000 gallons per day.** Outdoor pumping operations have been winterized using shelters with heat to protect from freezing and all systems are being monitored 24/7. **Vendor has not delivered electric pump that was purchased by Big Stone Gap for cave pumping operations. Big Stone Gap to follow up with vendor.** Incident Management Team Meeting on 29 November 2005 it was determined that a long-range plan outline and tasking needs to be completed.

Prepared by: Mike Gray
Authority of Michael Cline, State Coordinator
/s/ Al Pace, Deputy Director of Operations